

The CP Connection

The Community Partner Newsletter

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“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”

~Helen Keller

NACo Recognizes My Health LA's Pharmacy Network!

Welcome to the May edition of *The CP Connection*.

This month, the My Health LA (MHLA) program office wants to share some wonderful news with you. The “Pharmacy Phase II” project that we worked so hard on together has been recognized by the National Association of Counties. I want to thank the amazing MHLA team, all of the community clinics who worked so hard to implement so many changes, and of course, Ventegra, for the 3+ years of work that it took all of us make our very unique retail pharmacy network a reality.

This has been a busy couple months. We've been chairing a workgroup with the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC), numerous health advocacy groups, and the Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Public Health (DPH) to help improve linkages between MHLA clinics and their patient's and participant's behavioral health services. Both mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services are available through the MHLA program free of charge for MHLA participants. In

this workgroup, we have learned a lot about the types of services and resources that MHLA clinics and patients have when navigating where to get behavioral health care. For example, I learned that DMH has Service Area Navigators that can help all MHLA clinics if there is a patient having trouble accessing mental health care. I am also embarrassed to say I didn't know that clinics could send patients to DMH through *eConsult* until I learned it through the workgroup. We will provide more info to the clinics in a later newsletter.

We have also been working a lot out our outbound communications here in the MHLA program. We are developing a MHLA poster that clinics can put in their waiting rooms about the program. We have always had fact sheets for MHLA, but posters are easier to read while patients wait for their appointments. We especially want to advertise the many benefits of the program, including the availability of behavioral health care. We'll let you know when we have some of these for all of you to put up.

~Amy Luftig Viste, Director, MHLA

Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services, My Health LA program earns national achievement award!

“Medicine for the Uninsured: Building a Pharmacy Network for Patients without Insurance”

WASHINGTON – Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services’ (DHS) My Health LA program has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized My Health LA for the category of “Medicine for the Uninsured: Building a Pharmacy Network for Patients without Insurance” in the category of health.

NACo President Roy Charles Brooks said, “Counties seize opportunities to deliver services more efficiently and build stronger communities every day. Achievement Award-winning programs are examples for counties that are determined to enhance services for our residents.”

The creation of MHLA's retail pharmacy network for the residually uninsured population is the first of its kind. Together with our network of MHLA community clinics and Ventegra (DHS' contracted Pharmacy Services Administrator) a “wrap-around” pharmacy network, including retail pharmacies, was created for uninsured residents of Los Angeles County, possibly for the first time in the nation.

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services that counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.



Since the first cohort joined the pharmacy network on July 1, 2014, and through the last cohort joining on December 1, 2017, the MHLA pharmacy network has filled over 997,000 prescriptions for 87,500 unique MHLA patients. Approximately 80% of these prescriptions are filled at contracted pharmacies, 18% are filled at on-site clinic dispensaries, and 2% are mailed via DHS Central Pharmacy.

Last year, over 189,000 patients were enrolled in the MHLA program. The estimated annual cost for the MHLA pharmacy network is \$7 million, however, the savings associated with accessing and utilizing 340B drug pricing under this program is estimated to be over \$24 million per year.

This summer, NACo will recognize the award-winning counties, including My Health LA, at its 2018 Annual Conference and Exposition July 13-16 in Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee. Mayra Palacios, Contract Administration Manager for MHLA, will attend the conference and accept the award on behalf of the program.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government, and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. You can learn more at www.naco.org.

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Amy Luftig Viste Program Director
Philip Barragan Newsletter Editor

